

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND,

Convened at EDINBURGH, the 22d Day of *May* 1788.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerks thereof.



EDINBURGH:
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A C T S

General Terms

CHURCH

SCOTLAND

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THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
O F
S C O T L A N D,

Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 22d Day of *May* 1788, and
concluded the 2d Day of *June* in the said Year.

I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl
of LEVEN produced, and ordered to
be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 22. 1788.

THE General Assembly of this National Church
being convened and constituted, there was pro-
duced to them, by the Right Honourable DA-
VID Earl of LEVEN, the King's Commission,
sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty
of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the
Great

Great Seal of Scotland, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly. The tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, Dei gratia, Magnæ Britannia, Franciæ, et Hi-
bernia Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad
quos præsentis literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem
Nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in vige-
simum secundum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Nos-
que abunde cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ
ecclesiæ, ut idem ecclesiæ generalis conventus die statuto debite
observetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos alio vocantibus, dicto
conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; Nosque abunde satis-
facti de sufficientia et fidelitate fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri
consanguinei Davidis Comitis de Leven, quod ad summum
munus nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem con-
ventum rite exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus:
Noveritis igitur, nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoræque
præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum, fide-
lissimum et prædilectissimum nostrum consanguineum Davidem
Comitem de Leven, supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto
generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi ple-
nam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram
personam et auctoritatem regalem representandi, nec non præ-
sentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequenti
generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc ef-
fectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium
et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi,
tam plene adeoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius
in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito fa-
cere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter præsentem facere
potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus David Co-
mes de Leven, in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime
fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et rati-
ficamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiæ
pastoribus et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam
partem Magnæ Britannia Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris,
cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Davidem Comi-
tem de Leven, tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium,
quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, ag-
noscant et audiant, stricte mandamus et præcipimus: Atque
hanc nostram Commissionem a dicto vigesimo secundo die Maii
proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente sessione dicti
generalis conventus in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel usque
dum

Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis superscript.

II.

GEORGE R.

Our Right Trusty, and Right Well-beloved Cousin, David Earl of Leven, has so much shewn his love of virtue, and his real attachment to the good of his Country and of Our Government, in the execution of the very great and interesting charge of Our Lord High Commissioner

B.

to

We have therefore only to express Our hope, that you will observe Our recommendation of unanimity and brotherly love to each other, in all business which may be to judge of; in the end, that this present Assembly may as happily conclude as any other which have preceded it. And so We bid you heartily farewell. Given at Our Court at St James's, the 5th day of May 1788, in the 28th year of Our Reign.

SYDNEY.

Addressed thus: To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved
the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the
King's most gracious Letter.

May it please Your Majesty,

THE gracious letter, with which Your Majesty hath been pleased to honour this meeting of the General Assembly, was received with becoming respect and gratitude.

The distinguished marks which Your Majesty has given of Your Royal approbation of the conduct of former Assemblies, and which You graciously condescend to repeat at this time, afford us the most sincere satisfaction, and are

are a most animating motive to induce us to persevere in our earnest endeavours for the preservation and advancement of true Religion and Virtue, and to embrace every opportunity of testifying the ardent zeal which we feel for the support of Your Majesty's Government and Royal Person.

Upon Your Majesty's renewed assurances to preserve to the Church of Scotland, all its legal rights, dignities, and privileges, we rest with that entire confidence, which is due from subjects to a Sovereign, who makes the Laws the rule of his Government; and we bless the King of Kings, that we live under a Prince, who shews himself the true nursing Father of the Church, by recommending to us, as his earnest wish, and as the most effectual method of securing the continuance of his protection, that we should hold forth an example of Christian Charity, and every incitement to pursue the paths of Christian Virtue, and that we should give every discouragement to idleness and vice.

We gladly embrace this opportunity of offering our humble thanks to Your Majesty for Your late Royal Proclamation, for the encouragement of Piety and Virtue, and for preventing and punishing vice, profaneness, and immorality, which is truly worthy of a Christian Prince, and a strong proof of the same watchful attention to the best interests of Your Kingdom, which is so fully expressed in Your Majesty's gracious letter to this Assembly. Deeply sensible that righteousness exalteth a nation, and that sin is the reproach of any people, we beg leave to assure Your Majesty, that we will most cheerfully exert ourselves to the utmost of our power, in recommending and enforcing Your Majesty's pious commands, by promoting among the people under our care, a sacred regard to the institutions and laws of our holy Religion.

We have had so much experience of the many amiable virtues by which the Right Honourable the Earl of Leven is distinguished; and his love of virtue and real attachment to the good of his Country, and the interests of the Church of Scotland, are so generally known, that we receive Your Majesty's reappointment of him to the very great and interesting charge of Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, as a gracious and acceptable mark of Your favour.

Your Majesty's Royal Donation of a thousand pounds for the Propagation of Religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, we receive with the sincerest gratitude;

Convinced that unanimity and brotherly love are becoming our characters as ministers of the Prince of Peace, and will give dignity to our proceedings, we shall study to observe Your Majesty's recommendation, and to conduct our business in such a manner as to bring the Assembly to a happy conclusion.

May it please Your Majesty,

Most obedient,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

ARCHIBALD DAVIDSON, *Mod.*

IV.

An Address by the General Assembly
to his Majesty.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE Your Majesty's most dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the National Assembly, beg leave to approach Your throne, with hearts full of loyalty and affection.

We

We should be unworthy of the station we hold, if we did not gladly embrace this first opportunity of congratulating Your Majesty on the happy effects of Your wise and vigorous measures, during the course of last year, when, under the direction of Divine Providence, You delivered this nation from the danger of being involved in war, by preserving the independence, and re-establishing the legal government of a neighbouring Protestant State, and happily revived with it an ancient and close alliance, which, for so long a period, had been salutary to Your Majesty's kingdoms.

While we contemplate the present posture of our public affairs in general, and our friendly league with the Republic of the United Provinces in particular, with thankfulness to Heaven, and the warmest approbation of Your Majesty's conduct, we feel ourselves called upon to commemorate that glorious event, the Revolution of 1688, which delivered us from Popery and arbitrary power, and fixed that constitution of government which is the wonder and envy of the world, not more for civil and political liberty, than for justice and humanity; which has hitherto had force sufficient to repair its internal disorders, as well as to repel external violence, and which the experience of a century now entitles us to hope may be as lasting as it is excellent. An event the more endeared to our remembrance, as from thence was derived the settlement of the Crown of Britain on Your Majesty's Illustrious Family, who have hitherto swayed the sceptre with so much wisdom and equity; and with such a sacred regard to the rights of the nation, as to secure the confidence and affection of their subjects, and to leave no doubt on our minds, That the stability of the constitution, and the prosperity of the people, will ever continue to be the great object of their government.

With such deep impressions of the felicity of that Great Æra, to which, besides all other advantages, we owe the restoration and security of our Ecclesiastical Establishment, Your Majesty may be assured, that we shall neglect no proper opportunity of making the people under our care duly sensible of the distinguished blessings they enjoy under Divine Providence, and of exciting in their minds sentiments of affection and loyalty to Your Majesty, the faithful Guardian of all our Liberties.

That Your Majesty may reign long over a free and happy people: That the Almighty may guard Your Sacred Person from every danger, and bestow on You every
C blessing:

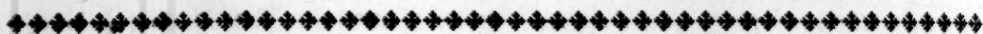
blessing: That he may bless and preserve the Queen,
 Prince of Wales, and all the Royal Family; and that a
 race of kings of Your Illustrious Line, may, to the latest
 posterity, sit on the throne of these realms, is the earnest
 prayer of,

May it please Your Majesty,
Your Majesty's most faithful,
Most obedient,

And most loyal subjects,
The Ministers and Elders met in this National
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,
In our presence,
And at our appointment, by

ARCHIBALD DAVIDSON, *Mod.*



V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr Archibald Davidson, Principal of Glasgow College, their Moderator, all the ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Dr Thomas Bisset at Logierait, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kenmore, Mr David Moncrieff at Rogarton, Mr Thomas Fergus at Denny, Mr Robert Mathie at Glendovan, Mr Robert Stirling at Port, Mr Robert Liston at Aberdour, Mr George Willis at Leslie, Mr Andrew Walker at

at Colleslie, Principal M'Cormick, St Andrews, Professor George Hill, St Andrews, Dr James Playfair at Meigle, Mr David Ferney at Kinnettles, Dr Robert Small at Dundee, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, Mr David Ferguson at Farnell, Mr John Hutchison at Fetteresso, Mr James Forsyth at Belhelvie, Mr William Shand at Lumphanan, Mr Thomas Birnie at Alford, Mr William Duff at Foveran, Mr Patrick Davidson at Rayne, Mr Andrew Youngson at Aberdour, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Robert Innes at Huntly, Mr John Grant at Boharm, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr Patrick Grant at Duthill, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, Mr Alexander Coull at Edenkillie, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, Mr George Watson at Inverness, Mr Robert Munro at Kilmuir Wester, Mr George Balfour at Tarbet, Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleskin, Mr Alexander Mackay at Barvas, Mr Murdoch Maciver at Lochalsh, Mr Æneas Macleod at Rogart, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachilles, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr William Anderson at Evie and Rendal, Mr James Bremner at Walls and Flota, Mr John Anderson at Stronfay, Mr David Thomson at Walls, Mr James Paton at Torphichen, Mr Bernard Halden at Glenholm, Dr James Moffat at Newlands, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Dr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, Mr Alexander Glen at Dirleton, Mr William Crombie at Spott, Mr Robert Home at Polwart, Mr George Tod at Eyemouth, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouston, Mr John Riccletton at Hopkirk, Dr James Ford at Lauder, Mr Stephen Oliver at Maxton, Mr Thomas Smith at Cumbertrees, Mr William Little at Westerkirk, Mr Alexander Brown at Moffat, Mr William Grierison at Glencairn, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick Durham, Mr Philip Morison at Balmaghie, Mr John Dickson at Kirkowan, Mr James Caddle at Newluce, Mr John Macdermid Fergushill at Straiton, Mr Thomas Brisbane at Dunlop, Mr John Monteith *senior* at Houston, Mr Patrick Maxwell at East Monkland, Mr James Gray at Lanark, Mr Alexander Dun at Calder, Mr James Jeffry at Balfron, Mr Charles Stewart at Strathchur, Mr Robert Thomson at Killeen, Dr Joseph Macintyre at Glenorchy, Mr Archibald Macarthur at Kilninian, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, Mr John Grant, at Kirkmichael, Mr John Downie at Stornoway, ministers; Thomas Elder, Esq; of Forreth, George Wright, Esq; of Laton, John Erskine, Esq; advocate, the Honourable Henry

ry Erskine, Professor Richardson, Sir Charles Preston, Mr James Fergus, Andrew Hamilton, Esq; Major John Melvill, Professor Cook, Dr Andrew Duncan, Edinburgh, Alexander Watson, Esq; of Turren, Mr Thomas Mill, merchant, Mr Thomas Duncan, writer, Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, Professor Playfair, Mr Cunningham of Hyndhope, William Macdonald, of Rinnston, Esq; Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, George Buchan-Hepburn, Esq; Mr John Taylor, writer, Mr Alexander Forbes, writer, Mr John Robertson, writer, Mr John Russell *jun.* writer, Mr Baron Gordon, Mr Isaac Grant, writer, Dr Gregory Grant, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon, writer, Walter Dunbar, Esq; Mr Ludovick Grant *jun.* writer, Bailie John Lothian, Edinburgh, Robert Macintosh, Esq; advocate, Convener Lindsay, Edinburgh, Lord Ankerville, Donald Smith, Esq; Edinburgh, Robert Bruce-Macleod, Esq; the Procurator, William Macleod-Bannatyne, Esq; Professor Macleod, General Mackay, Bailie Daniel Miller, Mr Alexander Youngson, writer, Mr Malcolm Laing, advocate, Mr George Home, baker, Professor Dalzell, Mr Walter Scott, writer, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener Dempster, Professor Walker, the Honourable Captain Sandilands, Provost Clark, Captain Taylor, Mr James Home, writer, the Lord Chief Baron, Mr Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Mr Solicitor General, John Hamilton, Esq; Hugh Dalrymple, Esq; Mr James Veitch, James Wilkie, Esq; Matthew Sandilands, Esq; John Stewart, Esq; the Honourable Henry Dundas, Bailie James Dickson, Hugh Scott, Esq; William Elliot, Esq; Richard Tod, Esq; Sir William Maxwell, Mr James Saunders, writer, Mr William Gegan, Mr Archibald Douglas, writer, John Macmurdo, Esq; Professor George Jardin, Mr William Anderson, Alexander Ferguson, Esq; advocate, Mr Horatius Canan, writer, Mr James Jamieson, Mr James Torry, merchant, the Lord President, John Hamilton, Esq; Mr John Ruffel, Mr Alexander Weir, Henry Stewart, Esq; Bailie William Telfar, Alexander Wight, Esq; advocate, the Lord Advocate, Sir James Colquhoun, Robert Cullen, Esq; Archibald Macdonald, Esq; William Campbell, Esq; Professor Williamson, Colonel Robert Campbell, Allan Macdougald, Esq; Professor Finlayson, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according

ing to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to His Majesty's design, expressed in His warrant ; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress : And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, *prudent*, of undoubted loyalty to His Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies : Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick ; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws : And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet ; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies : And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do : Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates

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ificates to them ; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee ; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof : And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts ; and that every Catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified ; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment ; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them ; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers ; and the said Committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh,

burgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of each of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty, is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at
their

their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a Subcommittee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.

VI.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for discussing Affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do nominate, commission and appoint, the Reverend Dr Archibald Davidson, Principal of Glasgow College, their Moderator; and from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Dr Thomas Bisset at Logierate, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kenmore, Mr Alexander Stewart at Moulin, Mr George Baird at Dunkeld, ministers, Thomas Elder, Esq; of Forneth, and David Stewart, Esq; banker, Edinburgh, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Perth, Mr David Moncrief at Roughton, Mr William Lang at Arngosk, Mr John Dow at Methven, Mr John Inglis at Tibbermuir, ministers, George Wright, Esq; of Laton, and Bailie John Caw, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Stirling, Mr Thomas Fergus at Denny, Mr James Robertson at Gargunnoch, ministers, John Erskine, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr Robert Mathew at Glendovan, Mr William Graham at Fossoway, Mr James Ramsay at Madderty, ministers, the Right Hon. Henry Erskine, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumblane, Mr

Mr Robert Stirling at Port, Mr Duncan Stewart at Balquhiddy, ministers, Professor William Richardson, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr Robert Liston at Aberdour, Mr Peter Primrose at Dalgety, Mr Walter Macalpin at Culrofs, ministers, Sir Charles Preston of Valleyfield, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, Mr George Willis at Leslie, Mr James Reid at Kinglassie, Mr John Scot at Auchtermool, ministers, James Townsend Oswald, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkcaldy, Mr James Fergus; from the burgh of Kinghorn, Andrew Hamilton, Esq; Provost of Kinghorn; from the burgh of Burntisland, Bailie John Thomson, Burntisland; from the burgh of Dysart, Bailie Alexander Thomson, Dysart; from the presbytery of Cupar, Mr Alexander Walker at Collesie, Mr George Campbell at Cupar, Mr Peter Barclay at Kettle, Mr Andrew Thomson at Balmerino, ministers, Mr Henry Thomas at Belhelvie, Mr Henry Birrel at Auchtermuchty, ruling elders; from the burgh of Cupar, Major John Melvil of Cairney; from the presbytery of St Andrews, Principal Maccormick, Mr James Burn at Forgan, Mr William Peirmont at Ely, Mr James Beatson at Kingsbarns, ministers, Lieutenant-colonel Monipenny, Professor John Cook, ruling elders; from the burgh of St Andrews, Dr Andrew Duncan, physician, Edinburgh; from the university of St Andrews, Professor George Hill; from the presbytery of Meigle, Dr James Playfair, Meigle, Mr James Ogilvy at Effie, Mr James Badenoch at Kingoldrum, ministers, Patrick Alison, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forfar, Mr David Ferney at Kinnettles, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, ministers, Alexander Watson, Esq; younger, of Turin, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dundee, Dr Robert Small, Dundee, Mr John Millar, Inchtute, Mr William Johnston, Monifeith, ministers, Mr David Law, merchant, Dundee, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberbrothock, Mr William Milligan, Kirkden, Mr David Syme at Barrie, ministers, Mr Thomas Mill, merchant, Canongate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Aberbrothock, Mr Thomas Duncan, writer, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Brechin, Mr David Fergusson at Farnel, Mr James Wilson at Marytown, Mr Robert Hannay at Strickathrow, ministers, Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordoun, Mr John Hutchison at Fetteresso, Mr Robert Foot at Fettercairn, Mr William Walker at Ecclesgrig, ministers, Professor Playfair, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberdeen, Mr

James Forsyth at Belhelvie, Mr James Hog at Skein, Mr James Sherriffs at Aberdeen, Dr John Brown at Newhills, ministers, Provost William Crowden, James Cunningham, Esq; ruling elders; from the King's College, Mr Roderick Macleod, Sub-principal; from the presbytery of Kincardine O'neal, Mr William Shand at Lumphanan, Mr George Knowles at Birse, Mr Thomas Gordon at Aboyne, ministers, William Macdonald, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Alford, Mr Thomas Birnie at Alford, Mr George Donaldson at Kennethmont, Mr Alexander Smith at Keig, ministers, John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ellon, Mr William Duff at Foveran, Mr William Paterson at Logie, ministers, Professor Thomas Gordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Garioch, Mr Patrick Davidson at Reyne, Mr George Skein-Keith at Keithhall, Mr William Maccliech at Culsalmond, ministers, George Buchan-Hepburn, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Deer, Mr Andrew Youngson, at Aberdour, Dr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr Hugh Taylor at Newdeer, ministers, Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Turreff, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr Robert Ballingal at Forglan, ministers, Mr Alexander Forbes, writer, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordyce, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Walter Chambers at Deskford, ministers, Mr John Robertson, writer, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Cullen, Mr John Ruffel *junior*, clerk to the Signet; from the presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr Robert Innes at Huntly, Mr George Gordon at Mortlich, ministers, Mr Baron Gordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberlour, Mr John Grant at Boharm, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, ministers, Mr Isaac Grant, writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr Patrick Grant at Duthel, Mr John Grant, Kirkmichael, ministers, Dr Gregory Grant, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Elgin, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, Mr John Reid at Duffus, ministers, Mr Thomas Gordon, clerk to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Coul at Edinkelly, Mr William Stephen at Rafford, ministers, Walter Dunbar, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Forres, Mr Ludovick Grant *junior*, writer, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Nairne, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, Mr John Morrison at Nairne, ministers, Bailie John Lothian, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Inverness, Mr George Watson at Inverness, Mr Alexander

der Gordon at Deviot, ministers, Robert Macintosh, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr Robert Munro at Kilmuir Wester, Mr James Munro at Cromarty, ministers, Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tain, Mr George Balfour at Tarbat, Mr Thomas Urquhart at Rosekeen, ministers, Lord Ankerville, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dingwall, Mr John Fraser at Kilmorack, Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, ministers, Donald Smith, Esq; banker, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abertarph, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleskeen, Mr James Grant at Laggan, ministers, Robert Bruce Æneas Macleod of Cadbole, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Sky, Mr Martin Macpherson at Slate, Mr Donald Mackinnon at Strath, ministers, Lord Macdonald, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lewis, Mr Alexander Mackay at Barvas, Mr John Downie at Stornoway, ministers, the Procurator for the Church, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochcarron, Mr Murdoch Maciver at Lochalsh, Mr John Macqueen at Applecrofs, ministers, William-Macleod Bannatyne, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dornoch, Mr Æneas Macleod at Rogart, Mr Alexander Sage at Kildonan, ministers, Professor Hugh Macleod, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tong, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachillis, Mr John Thomson at Durness, ministers, General Mackay, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Caithness, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr Thomas Jolly at Dunnet, ministers, Bailie Daniel Miller, Canongate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr William Anderson at Evie and Randal, Mr James Watson at South Ronaldsay, ministers, Mr Alexander Youngson, writer, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkwall, Mr Malcolm Laing, advocate; from the presbytery of Cairstone, Mr James Bremner at Walls and Flota, Mr John Falconer at Stromness, ministers, Mr George Home baker, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of North Isles, Mr John Anderson at Stronsay and Edie, Mr James Izet at Westry, ministers; from the presbytery of Zetland, Mr John Inches at Nesting, Mr David Thomson at Walis, ministers, Professor Dalzell, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Edinburgh, Dr John Drysdale, Edinburgh, Mr James Craig at Currie, Dr David Johnston, North Leith, Dr Andrew Hunter, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Hardie, Edinburgh, Mr William Greenfield, Edinburgh, ministers, Mr Walter Scot, clerk to the Signet, Mr John Hadoway,

doway, Mr Francis Braidwood, ruling elders ; from the city of Edinburgh, the Lord Provost, Convener Dempster ; from the university of Edinburgh, Professor Walker ; from the presbytery of Linlithgow, Mr James Paton at Torphichen, Mr John Henderson at Queensferry, Mr William Peterkin at Ecclesmachan, Mr John Muir at Falkirk, ministers, Sir William Augustus Cunningham, the Honourable Captain Sandilands, ruling elders ; from the burgh of Linlithgow, Provost Clark ; from the burgh of Queensferry, Captain James Taylor ; from the presbytery of Biggar, Mr Bernard Haldane at Glenholm, Mr William How at Skirling, Mr Bryce Little at Covington, ministers, Mr James Home, clerk to the Signet, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Peebles, Dr James Moffat at Newlands, Mr Patrick Robertson at Edleston, ministers, Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Peebles, Andrew Hamilton, Esq ; from the presbytery of Dalkeith, Dr Henry Grieve, Dalkeith, Mr James Finlayson, Borthwick, Dr Alexander Carlyle, Inveresk, ministers, Mr Solicitor-general, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Haddington, Dr Alexander Glen at Dirleton, Mr Matthew Murray at North Berwick, Mr Henry Sangster at Humbie, ministers, John Hamilton Esq ; of Pencaitland, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Haddington, Mr James Veitch merchant, Haddington ; from the burgh of North Berwick, Hugh Dalrymple, Esq ; younger, of North Berwick ; from the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr William Crombie at Spot, Mr Alexander Davidson at Stenton, ministers, James Wilkie of Gilkerston, Esq ; ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Dunse, Mr Robert Home at Polwart, Mr Selby Ord at Longformacus, ministers, Matthew Sandilands, Esq ; ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Chirnside, Mr George Couples at Swinton, Mr George Tod, Eyemouth, ministers, John Stewart, Esq ; ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Kelso, Mr James Richardson, Morebattle, Mr Robert Turnbull, Sprouston, ministers, the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Jedburgh, Mr John Riccalton at Hobkirk, Dr William Burn at Minto, Mr John Hunter at Oxnam, ministers, Bailie Dickson, Edinburgh, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Lauder, Dr James Ford, Lauder, Mr William Gillon at Legertwood, ministers, Hugh Scot, Esq ; ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Selkirk, Mr Stephen Oliver, Maxton, Mr William Campbell, Lilliesleaf, ministers, William Elliot, Esq ; ruling elder ; from the burgh of Selkirk, Richard Tod, Esq ; merchant, Leith ; from the

the presbytery of Annan, Mr Thomas Smith, Cumber-
trees, W^r William-Hardie Moncrief at Annan, ministers,
Sir William Maxwell, ruling elder; from the presbytery
of Langholm, Mr William Little at Westerkirk, Mr John
Laurie at Eskdalemuir, ministers, Mr James Saunders,
clerk to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery
of Lochmaben, Mr Alexander Brown at Moffat, Mr Ja-
cob Dickson at Mousewald, Mr Robert Little, Applegirth,
ministers, Mr William Grogan, Newmains, ruling elder;
from the burgh of Lochmaben, Mr Archibald Douglas, wri-
ter, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Penpont, Mr
William Grierson at Glencairn, Mr James Wallace at
Keir, ministers, John Macmurdo, Esq; ruling elder; from
the burgh of Sanquhar, Professor George Jardine; from
the presbytery of Dumfries, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpa-
trick-Durham, Mr James Heron at Kirkgunzian, Mr William
Macmorrin at Carlaverock, ministers, William Anderson,
Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumfries, Alexan-
der Ferguson, Esq; from the presbytery of Kirkcudbright,
Mr Philip Morrison at Balmaghie, Mr Thomas Halliday
at Kelton, Mr Nathaniel Mackie at Balmaclellan, mini-
sters, Horatius Cannan, clerk to the Signet, ruling elder;
from the presbytery of Wigton, Mr John Dickson at Kirk-
owan, Mr John Stephen at Mochrum, ministers, Mr James
Jamieson, ruling elder; from the burgh of Whithorn,
John Buthby, Esq; from the presbytery of Stranraer, Mr
James Caddel, Newluce, Mr Henry Blain at Stonykirk,
ministers, Bailie Torrie, ruling elder; from the presbyte-
ry of Ayr, Mr John Macdermid Fergushill, at Straton,
Dr Andrew Mitchell at Monckton, Dr Patrick Woodrow,
Tarbolton, Mr James Young, New Cumnock, Mr Thomas
Miller at Old Cumnock, ministers, Lord President, John
Hamilton, Esq; ruling elders; from the burgh of Ayr,
George Ferguson, Esq; from the presbytery of Irvine, Mr
Thomas Brisbane, Dunlop, Mr William Boyd at Fen-
wick, Mr Alexander Miller at Kilmaurs, ministers, Mr John
Ruffel, ruling elder; from the burgh of Irvine, the Hon.
Patrick Boyle; from the presbytery of Paisley, Mr John
Monteith, *senior*, at Houston, Mr John Monteith, *junior*, at
Nelfton, Mr Thomas Burns at Inchinnan, Mr John Finlay
of the High Church, Paisley, ministers, John Patieson, Esq;
Mr Alexander Weir merchant, Paisley, ruling elders; from
the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr Patrick Maxwell, East
Monkland, Dr Alexander Hutchison, Hamilton, Mr Ro-
bert Clawson, Dalziel, ministers, Henry Stewart, Esq; ru-
ling elder; from the presbytery of Lanark, Mr James

Gray, Lanark, Mr James Scot, Carluke, ministers, Bailie William Telfer, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lanark, Alexander Wight, Esq; advocate; from the presbytery of Glasgow, Mr Alexander Dun at Calder, Mr John Telfer, Kilsyth, Mr John Burns, Barony-Parish, Mr William Anderson, Gorbals, ministers, Mr John Tenant brewer, Glasgow, Mr Malcolm Macgilivray, Glasgow, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Dumbarton, Mr James Jeffrey at Balfron, Mr George Syme, New Kilpatrick, Mr Andrew Whyte at Kilmaronock, ministers, Lord Advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumbarton, Sir James Colquhoun, Baronet; from the presbytery of Dunoon, Mr Charles Stewart at Strachur, Mr John Mackinnon at Kilmodan, ministers, Robert Cullen, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr Robert Thomson at Killeen, Mr George Robertson, Campbelton, Mr Dugald Macdougald at Gigha, ministers, Archibald Macdonald, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Campbelton, William Campbell, Esq; from the burgh of Inverary, Professor Williamson; from the presbytery of Lorn, Dr Joseph Macintyre at Glenorchy, Mr John Macfarlane at Kilbrandan, ministers, Colonel Robert Campbell, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Mull, Mr Archibald Macarthur at Kilninian, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, ministers, Allan Macdougald, Esq; ruling elder; to be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do
not

not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable : Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets ; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert ; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith* ; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly ; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end : Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct ; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein ; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as
above

above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.

VII.

Overture respecting the Ordination of Elders.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.

WHEREAS, great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the ordination of Elders, the General Assembly overtures, That it be enacted, That no Minister should set apart any person to the office of Elder in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or who is not an heritor in the parish; it being the true meaning and intent of this Overture, to prevent Elders being ordained in congregations who are in nowise connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this Overture.

VIII.

Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 26. 1787.

THE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of religion and of this Church may be exposed, by licensing any to preach the gospel, who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact, and ordain, that, in all time coming, the following regulations shall be strictly observed:

- I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor, a Certificate from the minister

minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence ; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish, from some neighbouring minister, bearing, that his character is suitable to his views ; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or Certificates from the several Professors of Philosophy, under whom he hath studied ; from which it may be clearly ascertained, that in some University or Universities, he hath gone through a full course of Philosophy, in some sessions of College preceding that in which the Certificates are produced.

II. To afford the better security for the regular and exemplary conduct of Students in Divinity, it is hereby enacted, That upon the conclusion of that session in which they were first inrolled by the Professor, they shall, some time within six kalendar months thereafter, intimate to the Presbyteries, in whose bounds they have their respective places of residence, that they have commenced Students in Divinity ; and that, if any Student has occasion to remove from the bounds of one Presbytery to those of another, he shall, within six kalendar months after said removal, intimate the same to the Presbytery in whose bounds he is to have his new residence, and produce to them a Certificate of his character from that Presbytery with whom he was last connected ; or at least a certificate of his moral character from the minister of the parish in which he resided. And it is farther enacted, that the several Presbyteries of this Church, shall keep exact lists of such Students of Divinity, as reside within their bounds, and watch over the conduct of the said Students.

III. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity, for the term of six years : Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall, during three sessions, his course shall be considered as completed in four sessions ; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two sessions, his course shall be considered as completed in five sessions. And the Assembly do farther ordain, that in each of these cases, Students shall be inrolled by the Professors during the several sessions of their respective courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided,

vided, an *Exegesis* in Latin on some controverted head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exercise and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a Popular Sermon, together with such other Exercises, as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. It is likewise hereby enacted, that, in each of these respective cases, the course shall be computed from the commencement of that session in which the Student was originally inrolled; and that if a Student be proposed to any Presbytery for trials, during the currency of his fourth, fifth or sixth session, according to the special nature of his case, that session shall be sustained as one of his course.

IV. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to insist, That every Student shall deliver his first discourse some time during his second session, at the latest, and the remainder of his discourses at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January of the last session of his course.

V. When a Student is to be proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Presbytery shall appoint the member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting all the Certificates in favour of the Student, that are usually required on such occasions; to desire him to attend the same, and to inform him, that previously to the meeting, he ought to wait on such members of the Presbytery, as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

VI. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations:

1st, The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2^d, They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose, has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3^d,

3d, No Student shall be admitted to trials unless he produces to the Presbytery, a Certificate or Certificates, from the Professor or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing, that he hath prosecuted his studies, and delivered his discourses in the manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life.

4th, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; found in his principles; pious, sober, grave, and prudent in his behaviour, of a peaceable disposition, and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless he shall either have resided six kalendar months within their bounds, immediately previous to the date of their deliberations, or shall produce a certificate of his being qualified, as is herein provided, from the Presbytery in whose bounds he hath had his usual residence for that period.

5th, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge, which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student, strictly and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

6th, If, after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion, that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, *two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same*, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon public trials; and bearing, that the several certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of such Synods as meet only once a year, a Student may be entitled to have these circular letters

letters written half a-year sooner than would be otherwise competent.

VII. The General Assembly do likewise appoint Presbyteries to observe the several regulations which are prescribed in the immediately preceding section of this act, before they recommend a Student as qualified to be taken upon public trials by any other Presbytery.

VIII. If a Student hath studied, either in whole or in part, in Universities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these Professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition, shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in any of the Universities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in such circumstances, shall be admitted, even to those private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, sooner than six kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

IX. The General Assembly ordain, That if a Presbytery propose to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof shall be made at some diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which shall not be the last diet thereof. And it is likewise hereby ordained, That at some subsequent diet of the Synod, particular enquiry shall be made, whether any of the members of the Court has any objection to offer against the Student being entered upon public trials.

X. If the Synod shall allow the Student to be taken upon public trials, the Presbytery shall proceed therein with all convenient speed; and the Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: 1st, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology and Church History; 2^d, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages; 3^d, An *Exegesis* in Latin, on some controverted head in Divinity, with the defence of the Thesis; 4th, A Homily in English; 5th, An Exercise and Addition; 6th, A Lecture on some large portion of Scripture; 7th, A popular Sermon; it being understood,

derstood, that if the Presbytery see cause, they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several discourses.

XI. The Student having gone through the several trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding section of this act, the Presbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order :

1st, They shall deliberately and seriously take a conjunct view of the whole trials ; and if they shall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent on a Preacher of the Gospel, they shall by no means grant him a licence in his present circumstances.

2^d, If, upon this review of the trials, the Presbytery are fully satisfied therewith, they shall record this opinion in their minutes.

3^d, The Presbytery shall then propose to the Student the questions which are appointed to be put to all who pass trials, by Act 10. Assemb. 1711, and require him to subscribe the *Formula*, which is prescribed by the said act. And the General Assembly strictly prohibit all Presbyteries from licensing any Student to preach the Gospel, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said Formula.

4th, The Presbytery shall order the act against Simoniackal practices, to be read to the Student in their presence.

Lastly, The Presbytery shall appoint their Moderator to license the Student to preach the Gospel, and order their Clerk to furnish him with an extract of his licence, agreeable to the form thereof, which is prescribed by the laws of this Church.

XII. For the better observance of this Act, the General Assembly ordain, 1st, That it shall be printed among their other printed acts ; 2^d, That it shall be printed by itself, in some convenient form ; 3^d, That a copy of this separate edition shall be transmitted to each Professor of Divinity in the Universities of Scotland ; and that the said Professors shall read the same in their respective halls, once at least during every session, and at such times as they have reason to expect the attendance of the greatest number of Students for that session ; 4th, That a copy of the same edition shall likewise be transmitted to the Clerks of each Synod and Presbytery within the bounds
of

of this Church ; and that the said Clerks shall keep the same along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their respective Courts, for the use of the members ; and, *lastly*, That when any Presbytery shall give a Probationer, an extract of his licence, they shall subjoin to the form, which is already requisite on that occasion, the following words : “ And the Presbytery do hereby certify, That, in granting this licence, the Act of Assembly respecting the licensing of Probationers, has been strictly observed.”

IX.

Act concerning the Attestation of Kirk-sessions to Commissions from Burghs.

It was overtured to the General Assembly, that for removing certain difficulties in the mode of attesting commissions from certain burghs, the Assembly should pass an act to the following purport :

WHEREAS, by Act 9. of Assemb. 1718, and Act 4. of Assemb. 1720, it is ordained and required, That commissions from royal Boroughs, to their representatives in the General Assembly, shall be attested by the Kirk-sessions of the electing Boroughs respectively :

The Assembly, considering that in certain of the greater boroughs within the bounds of this Church, there are several parishes, and different Kirk-sessions within the royalty ; and that, in these cases, there has been hitherto no legal enactment to direct the mode in which the sessional attestations are to be adhibited to commissions from such boroughs to their representatives in the General Assembly :

To remove any doubts which may arise in such situations, the Assembly hereby *appoints* and *declares*, That the attestation of any one Kirk-session within the electing Borough shall be held as competent and sufficient to all the purposes for which Sessional attestations are required.

X.

X.

Act appointing a National Thanksgiving in Commemoration of the Revolution in 1688.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1788.

THE General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, recollecting, with gratitude to Almighty God, the happy and glorious Event, that in the year 1688 (of which the present year is the Secular Anniversary) delivered the Nation from Civil and Religious Oppression, set proper bounds to the Royal Prerogative, secured the Liberties and just Rights of the People, and confirmed to this National Church all the Religious Rights and Privileges which she now enjoys under the Illustrious House of HANOVER. And being fully convinced, that the Principles of the Revolution Settlement are the only foundation on which the Security of the Throne, and the Happiness of the Subjects can be permanently established, they think themselves called upon by their duty to God and to their Country, to embrace every proper opportunity of recalling to the serious and grateful recollection of the People committed to their charge, this special interposition of Divine Providence in their favour, of impressing on their minds a lively Sense of the Value of the Civil and Religious Liberties thereby attained, and of exhorting them by every constitutional means, to preserve and transmit them inviolate to the latest Posterity. And considering that the blessings enjoyed by the People of this free and happy Country, in consequence of the Revolution, do far exceed the measure of Civil and Religious Advantages, which the Providence of God hath allotted to any other Nation: Therefore the General Assembly did, and hereby by do appoint *the fifth day of November this year*, to be observed, within the bounds of this National Church, as a Day of Solemn Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the Enjoyment of those inestimable Blessings for a Century past, and of earnest Supplication for their Continuance to the latest Generations: And the Assembly enjoins all
Ministers

Ministers to intimate this Act from their Pulpits upon the Lord's Day immediately preceding the said fifth day of November this year, and to accompany the Intimation with suitable Exhortations.



XI.

Act appointing the Diet of the next
General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 21st day of May, in the year 1789.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly,

JOHN DRYSDALE, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

I

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ABRIDGMENT

A B R I D G M E N T

O F T H E

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the year 1788, which are not printed at full length.

May 22. 1788. Sess. 1st.

AFTER sermon by the Reverend Mr Robert Liston, minister of the Gospel at Aberdour, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house, in the usual manner, and, after prayer by the said Mr Robert Liston, the Reverend Dr Archibald Davidson, Principal of the College of Glasgow, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The General Assembly being thus constituted, the King's Commission to the Right Honourable David Earl of Leven, to represent His Majesty's Royal Person, was read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, was also read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded.

His Majesty's Royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, was also delivered to the Assembly, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at opening the Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

A Letter from Mr William Robertson, advocate, Procurator for the Church, apologizing for his not attending his duty in the Assembly, on account of his bad state of health, was given in, and read, and his excuse sustained.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

A Committee named for revising the commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving in Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A B R I D G M E N T. 1788.

A Committee for overtures named.

A Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.
Adjournment.

May 23. 1788. Sess. 2d.

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

A diet spent in Prayer.

The Act 7. of Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of the Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Mr Andrew Dalzel, Professor of Greek in the university of Edinburgh, unanimously appointed assistant-clerk to Dr John Drysdale, principal clerk of the Assembly, during all the diets of this Assembly, and the commissions thereof, on account of the said Dr Drysdale's infirm state of health.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the King's High-Commissioner.

The Committee for overtures and bills, appointed to meet this evening at seven o'clock, in the usual places.

Adjournment.

May 24. 1788. Sess. 3d.

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The Report of the Committee for revising commissions having passed the Committee for overtures, was called for, read, and considered by the Assembly.

It was objected to the commission from the Presbytery of Lauder, That "the Presbytery cannot attest, that the ruling elder, Mr Scott, *junior* of Harden, has yet signed the *formula*, he being now in London." The Assembly approved of the report of the Committee for overtures, *viz.* That it is competent for Mr Scott to purge the objection at the bar, on his appearance in the Assembly.

The commission from the Presbytery of Sky rejected, because it wants the attestation altogether, and the commissioners names ordered to be expunged from the roll.

It was objected to the commission from the burgh of Irvine, "That the resolution to elect was upon the 29th of March, and the day of election on the 8th of April." The Assembly, without a vote, repelled the objection, and sustained the commission.

It

It was objected to the commissions from the burghs of Inverary and Sanquhar, "That the attestation of "the kirk-session of both, wants the words *attested by*." The Assembly repelled the objections, and sustained the commissions.

The draught of an Answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, being brought in, a motion was made and seconded, That certain words should stand part of the Answer; and the following state of a vote was agreed to, *Adopt* or *Not*; it being understood, if it carried *Adopt*, that the proposed words should stand part of the Answer; and if it carried *Not*, that they should be rejected; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried by a great majority, *Not*. The Assembly, therefore, rejected the above motion, and approved of the original Answer, which his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit to His Majesty.

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee for bills, called for, produced, and read over.

The whole of the proof in the cause of Dalton, ordered to be printed; and the time for other causes fixed.

A Committee named to revise the register of the actings and proceedings of the Commission of the last General Assembly, and to collect any overtures made by the last Commission to this General Assembly, &c.

A Committee named to revise the register of the actings and proceedings of the Committee named by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee named to audit and revise the accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, consider the state of the Church's public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The Committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening at seven o'clock, and empowered to receive in from the several members, any instructions given to them by the respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereon to the Assembly; and to receive in and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and superstition, and prepare overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof.

Committee for bills appointed to meet this evening.

Adjournment.

May

ABRIDGMENT. 1788.

May 26. 1788. *Seff. 4th.*

Sederunt.

New Commissions produced.

The Committee for revising Commissions appointed to meet this evening.

The report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

Agreed to consider the overtures in the following order, *viz.* To-morrow, *1st*, The overture from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, respecting the suppression and annexation of benefices: *2d*, The overtures anent the taxes upon the clergy; and, *3dly*, The overtures respecting the sale of patronages during a vacancy. And to consider on Wednesday, *1st*, The overtures concerning the commemoration of the Revolution; and, *2dly*, The overtures relative to the Slave-trade.

The report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read, and all petitions relating to the public money, referred to the Committee on public accounts.

A Committee named to revise the Synod-book of Glenelg. None of the other Synod-books brought up to this Assembly. Resolved, that the reasons thereof be enquired into.

The deliverance of last General Assembly, respecting the glebe of Strichen, and the report and opinion by the Procurator on that affair, in consequence of the steps that had been taken since last Assembly, being read, the Assembly unanimously agreed to adopt the said opinion, and therefore remitted the above affair to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, authorising them, in the name and by the authority of the General Assembly, and at the public expence of the Church, to take such steps as may be necessary to set the said excambion aside.

The reference from the Synod, and from the Presbytery of Aberdeen, concerning the number of elders the Kirk-session of Aberdeen is entitled to be represented by, in the Synod and Presbytery, being read, and considered, the Assembly, without debate, unanimously found, That the Kirk-session of Aberdeen have no right to send more than one elder to represent them, either in the Presbytery or Synod of Aberdeen.

The Committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening.

Adjournment.

May

A B R I D G M E N T. 1788.

May 27. 1788. Sess. 5th.

Sederunt.

Report of the Committee for overtures, read and approved.

Report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read.

A motion was made to address His Majesty on the important events of last year, &c. The consideration whereof delayed till after the discussion of the business appointed for to-morrow.

The overture from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, respecting the suppression and annexation of benefices, remitted to the Procurator for his opinion.

The overtures from the Synod of Dumfries, from the Presbytery of Biggar, and from Mr Sutherland at Wick, anent the taxes upon the Clergy, referred to a Committee, to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock, and to give in their report to the Assembly on Friday next.

The consideration of the overtures anent the sale of patronage, delayed till to-morrow.

The Committee on public accounts, and the Committees for revising the Commission-record, and the Royal Bounty record, appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

Agreed to take up Dr Bryden's cause on Thursday, and Mr Liddel's, as the first private cause thereafter.

The Committee named by last Assembly, on the overtures anent the sale of patronage during a vacancy, appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

Adjournment.

May 28. 1788. Sess. 6th.

Sederunt.

The Procurator and Agent's accounts, &c. with the report of the Committee thereon produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Assembly proceeded to deliberate on the overtures from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, and from the Synod of Galloway, anent the sale of patronage during a vacancy; and agreed, that it is at present unnecessary to enter into the farther consideration of them. At the same time, the Assembly repeated that strong disapprobation which the last Assembly expressed of Simoniackal practices, and declare their firm resolution to exercise the powers with which the Constitution hath invested them, in preserving the purity of the members of this Church; and dismissed the overtures accordingly.

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The Assembly proceeded to consider the overtures from the Synods of Galloway, Glasgow and Ayr, Lothian and Tweeddale, Fife, Angus and Mearns, and from the Presbytery of Dundee, for commemorating the Revolution in 1688. Unanimously approved of the overtures, and appointed a Committee to draw up an Act of Assembly to that effect, to be laid before the House to-morrow.

The overtures from the Synods of Lothian and Tweeddale, Merse and Teviotdale, and Angus and Mearns, relating to the Slave-trade, read and considered. After long reasoning, a motion was made and seconded, "That the General Assembly having considered the
" above overtures, approve of the spirit thereof, and
" think themselves called upon, as men, as Christians,
" and as members of this National Church, to declare
" their abhorrence of a traffic so contrary to the
" rights of mankind, and the feelings of humanity, and
" their earnest wish, that the wisdom and mercy of the
" Legislature may be speedily exerted for the relief of
" that unhappy portion of their fellow-creatures."

Another motion was made and seconded, That the Assembly should petition the Honourable House of Commons upon the subject of the Slave-trade. The House, after farther reasoning, unanimously adopted the first motion; and with respect to the last, the following state of a vote was put, *Petition* or *Not*; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Not*; therefore the Assembly refused to petition the House of Commons on the above subject.

The Assembly having resumed the consideration of the motion of yesterday for an address to His Majesty, remitted the same to the Committee appointed to draw the Act for the thanksgiving in commemoration of the Revolution in 1688, to prepare said address, and to lay the same before the House as soon as possible.

The Assembly agreed to resolve themselves into a Committee of the whole House, to consider the cause of Dalton, to meet next day at eleven o'clock.

Agreed to take up the overture about the attestation to commissions from burghs on Saturday.

The Committee for bills to meet this evening, and the Committee on new applications, to-morrow.

Adjournment.

A B R I D G M E N T. 1788.

May 29. 1788. *Seff. 7th.*

Sederunt.

The report of the Committee for bills called for, given in and read.

The report of the Committee of the whole House, in the cause at the instance of Robert Henderson of Cleughheads, and others, heritors, elders, and heads of families in the parish of Dalton, against Dr William Bryden, minister of that parish, called for, given in and read. The General Assembly approved of the report, finding, That the first and third articles of the libel are not proven: That the second and fifth articles have been abandoned by the prosecutors, as conscious that they are unable to adduce the shadow of proof in support of them: That it is not proven, under the fourth article, that Dr Bryden is an habitual curser and swearer; and therefore the Assembly assilzied the said Dr Bryden from all those articles of the libel: But, in regard it appeared in proof, and is acknowledged by Dr Bryden in his defences, that he has, upon several occasions, in the heat of passion, uttered expressions irreverent towards Almighty God, and unbecoming the character of a clergyman, the Assembly appointed the Moderator to give a sharp rebuke to Dr Bryden from the chair, for having taken the name of God in vain, and earnestly to admonish him to guard against all such expressions in time to come. This judgment intimated to the parties at the bar, and Dr Bryden rebuked and admonished by the Moderator accordingly.

The report of the Committee appointed to prepare an act for a National Thanksgiving, in commemoration of the Revolution in 1688, given in, read and approved of, (*Vide* printed Acts); and the Agent for the Church authorised to cause 1000 copies of the act to be printed, and to transmit a copy thereof to every parish within the bounds of this Church, betwixt and the first of September next.

The draught of an address to his Majesty, on the important events of last year, which prevented our being involved in war, and on the glorious Revolution in the year 1688, brought in and approved; and his Grace the Commissioner undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The Committee for overtures appointed to meet to-morrow at half past ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

May

A B R I D G M E N T. 1788.

May 30. 1788. Sess. 8th.

Sederunt.

The report of the Committee for overtures, on the returns to overtures transmitted by last Assembly, given in and read, and ordered to lie on the table till next day.

The opinion by the Procurator on the overture from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, anent suppression and annexation of benefices, given in and read. The Assembly, after reasoning, agreed to adopt the said opinion; therefore dismissed the overture, as proposing a remedy which is incompetent, and as unnecessary; because the General Assembly are confident, that all the Presbyteries of this Church, when they are summoned as parties in any process of annexation or suppression, will attend carefully to the interests of religion within their bounds, and to the circumstances of the case, before they express their consent.

The report of the Committee appointed to consider the overtures respecting the taxes on horses, and other taxes, given in and read. The Assembly approved of the said report; and agreeable thereto, appointed a standing Committee to watch over the interests of the Clergy in that matter, and to take what steps they may think proper for obtaining relief.

The report of the Trustees of the fund established by act of Parliament, for a provision to Minister's widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till a future diet: And upon a motion, the thanks of the House were given from the Chair to Sir Henry Moncrieff-Welwood, for his fidelity, attention, and prudence in the management of the fund.

An appeal, transmitted to the Assembly at the instance of Mr Francis Liddell, minister of the gospel at Orphir, from two interlocutors of the Synod of Orkney, the last whereof was a resolution to suspend the appellant *sine die*, on account of alleged falsehood, prevarication, and insult to their Judicatory; the Assembly, in respect of the irregularity of the procedure of the Synod of Orkney, reversed the resolution of August 1787, and found, that there is no evidence before this Assembly, of Mr Liddell's having been guilty of falsehood and prevarication; but, in respect that Mr Liddell, at the bar of the Assembly, has thrown out unsubstantiated charges

A B R I D G M E N T. 1788.

charges of crimes against ministers in the Synod of Orkney, and, upon various other occasions, (as appears from the papers on the table, and as admitted by himself), has thrown out the like unsubstantiated charges of crimes against a particular minister in said Synod, tending to injure his moral character, and to destroy his usefulness, the Assembly declared their high displeasure at such aspersions, and ordained the Moderator to rebuke the said Mr Liddell at the bar for the same; and appointed extracts of this sentence to be transmitted to the Presbyteries of Cairnston and Kirkwall, and to the Synod of Orkney; and appoint them to record the said extracts in their respective books. The above judgment intimated to the parties, and Mr Liddell rebuked by the Moderator accordingly.

Agreed to take up the cause of Patrick Macgeorge in Bra-co next day.

Appointed the Committees for revising the Commission-record, and the Royal Bounty record, to be ready to give in their reports next day.

Adjournment.

May 31. 1788. Sess. 9th.

Sederunt.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him and his cautioners of the sum of L. 503: 8: 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing, that he debit himself in his next account with the sum of L. 3: 7: 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling, being the balance in his hand.

Act approving of the account of Mr George Cairncross, Agent for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him of the sum of L. 195: 12: 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing that he debit himself in his next account with the sum of L. 10: 12: 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling, being the balance in his hands.

Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickson, Printer to the Church, and payment ordered.

Act approving of the account of Mr Elphinston Balfour, Stationer for the Church, and payment ordered.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Murray, Clerk appointed by the Committee on the Form of Process, and payment ordered.

The report of the Committee named to consider the applications for shares of the public money, together with the opinion of the Procurator and Committee thereon, given in, and read.

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A B R I D G M E N T. 1788.

The desire of the petition for Mr Robert Gun, Minister of Latheron, refused.

The process of suspension depending before the Court of Session, between Mr Andrew Brown, minister of Falkland, and his Heritors, respecting his manse, offices, and glebe, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to be carried on at the public expence.

The petition for Mr Robert Thomson, Minister of Kilean, ordered to lie on the table, on account of the present situation of the funds; but the Assembly recommends the petitioner to future Assemblies, to grant him such aid from time to time, as the funds of the Church will permit, until he be completely reimbursed.

The case of Mr Alexander Stronach, Minister of Lochbroom, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to give their aid to the Minister in resisting any encroachment that may be made upon his glebe.

The petition for the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, and Presbytery of Kelso, refused.

The Procurator authorised to pay Dr Brown, Minister of Newhills, the sum of L. 30 Sterling, after the debts already on the fund are paid.

The report of the Visitors of the Commission-book given in, and read, and the Commission's conduct approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for naming the members of the Commission, and preparing instructions to them, given in, and approved of. The Assembly added thereto, Dr William Taylor, one of the Ministers of Glasgow, in place of the Moderator, and also added all those whose Commissions had been rejected on account of informality.

The report of the Visitors of the Royal Bounty Register, given in, and read. The conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a Commission, and instructions to them.

The Synod-book of Glenelg ordered to be attested.

The Committee on the Scheme for erecting new Parishes in the Highlands and Islands renewed, with the former powers.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed with the former powers, with additions to the Committee.

The Committee on the Form of Process renewed with the former powers.

The

A B R I D G M E N T. 1778.

The Overture anent attestations of Commissions from Burghs, to their Representatives to the General Assembly, considered; and after reasoning, the state of a vote was put, *Approve* or *Dismiss*; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Approve*: The Assembly therefore approved of the overture, and ordained the same to be enacted accordingly. (*Vide Printed Acts.*) Against which several members dissented, and others who might adhere, were allowed to enter their dissents on Monday.

An appeal at the instance of Patrick Macgeorge in Braco, from a sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, of date the 17th October last, heard. The Assembly, without debate, unanimously reversed the sentence of the Synod, found the exculpation relevant, and remitted to the Synod to allow a proof thereof.

Adjournment.

June 2. 1788. *Sess. ult.*

Sederunt.

A new Commission produced, read, and sustained.

Some members joined in the dissent from the decision of Saturday, on the overture anent attestations to Commissions from Burghs. The reasons of dissent were given in, read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

Upon a motion, the Assembly resumed the consideration of the petition of Mr Robert Gun, minister of Latheron; and the deliverance of last Assembly upon the petition of Mr William Mitchell, minister of Tingwall, being read, the Assembly remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to take such steps in the process of augmentation at the instance of Mr Gun against his heritors, or in any other process of augmentation, resting upon grounds similar to those of Latheron and Tingwall, as may appear to them necessary and expedient for bringing the said processes to a final issue.

The overture concerning the licensing of Probationers, ordered to be retransmitted, with the addition of the following words, in Paragraph 6th, sect. 6th of the same, to be inserted after the words, "Provincial Synod," viz. "*Two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same.*" And the Assembly renewed the order on Presbyteries to send up their returns to next Assembly. (*Vide Printed Acts.*)

The overture concerning ordination of elders, also ordered to be retransmitted. (*Vide Printed Acts.*)

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The overture from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, anent Preachers or Ministers out of the bounds of this Church, dismissed *in hoc statu*.

A memorial and petition for the minister and elders of the Presbyterian congregation of the City of St John in the province of New Brunswick, read. The Assembly having considered said petition, approve of that attachment to the Church of Scotland, which is therein expressed, and of the pious zeal of the petitioners in promoting the interests of true religion; but regret that the state of the funds of the Church, and the circumstances of this country, do not permit the General Assembly to give them pecuniary aid. The Assembly do further empower their Moderator to express to the petitioners, the brotherly regard which this Church entertains for the Presbyterian congregation of the City of St John, in the province of New Brunswick, and to transmit to them a copy of this deliverance upon their petition.

A petition for Mr Richard Robertson, some time minister at Dalziel, craving aid, read. The Assembly remitted the same to the Procurator, with instructions to him to enquire into the facts, and endeavour to suggest some method of relief for the petitioner, to be laid before next Assembly.

The report of the Trustees of the fund established by Act of Parliament for a provision for Ministers widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

List of Probationers produced, their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

All causes brought before this Assembly, and not determined by them, referred to the Commission.

Protestation admitted.

A Committee named to revise the minutes of the Assembly's proceedings, at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of the Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and his Majesty's Commissioner.

The Lord Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next meeting of the Assembly. (*Vide Printed Acts.*)

The Assembly concluded with prayer, singing of psalms, and pronouncing the blessing.

